

U.S. ATTORNEY BLAMES FAULTY CONSTRUCTION FOR KICKERBOCKER THEATER CRASH

Indications Point to Causes Other Than Snowfall.

RIGID TESTS URGED FOR D. C. BUILDINGS

Officials and Experts Continue Thorough Investigation of Ruins.

Outstanding developments today in the various investigations going forward to determine the cause of the collapse of the Knickerbocker Theater roof were:

United States Attorney Gordon declared he is inclined to agree with Senator Capper that the cause of the Knickerbocker disaster will be found in faulty construction of the building, especially the roof.

Sensor Capper proposed rigid tests for all buildings where public assemblies are held before the public is allowed to use them.

District government authorities and the building inspector are conducting a thorough investigation of the heavy snow was to blame for the roof collapse.

Material Deigned Faulty.
Construction material in the fallen roof was faulty, this is the opinion reached by a party of congressmen and building experts.

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Added to List of Victims Of Knickerbocker Crash

CHINESE TREATIES BEING DRAFTED BY ARMS DELEGATES

Conference Expected to Wind Up Work by Saturday or Monday.

OPEN SESSION EXPECTED AT END OF THIS WEEK

Envoys Make Plans to Sail for Homes—Powers to Exchange Notes on Treaty.

BY G. GOULD LINCOLN.
The drafting of treaties dealing with China, discussion of the Chinese Eastern railway and possibly the twenty-one demands of Japan upon China are occupying the attention of the Washington conference today.

The conference has made all of its major decisions. The Shantung question, handled contemporaneously with the conference, but apart from it, also is out of the way. Unless some unexpected snag is struck the conference will wind up its work Saturday or Monday.

Open Session Forecast.
An open session on Saturday, at which the Chinese treaties will be approved and possibly some other resolutions, was forecast today. The various treaties, including the naval limitation treaty, may be signed on Monday. If this program can be carried out Mr. Balfour, head of the British delegation, accompanied by others of that delegation, will leave Washington Monday night and sail for home on the Aquitania on Tuesday.

Other delegations are also planning an early exodus. Some of the Italian, Indian, and Japanese will not sail for home, however, until February 21.

The French powers signing the Pacific treaty, the United States, Great Britain, France and Japan, are to exchange the ratifications of the treaty of the Netherlands and Portugal. It was said today, announcing to those countries that they are not signatories to the four-power pact, they will receive all the benefits of the treaty.

Under the provisions of the treaty, the powers will have to respect each other's rights in their insular dominions and possessions in the Pacific region, and to meet for discussion if peace is menaced in that region.

Taken Up Railway.
The subcommittee on the Chinese Eastern railway today agreed on a resolution which will be submitted to the full conference tomorrow.

The resolution provides in general that the railway will be worked under the supervision of the Chinese government, but leaves many details to be worked out through diplomatic channels.

It was explained, following a meeting of the subcommittee, that the Chinese government will have to take many days to work out a complete plan, and that it was not desired to keep the Washington conference in session for this purpose.

It is proposed to have the road operated under international control until the Russian owners are in a position to handle it again. The Chinese, it is said, desire the right of exclusive control over the road and certain participation in the financing of the road. While the road is owned by Russia, the Chinese own a right of reversion.

The Balfour resolution designed to prohibit the exportation of arms to China, probably will have to be done. It was said today. The Italian delegation has proposed a reservation which would prevent the Chinese from being able to export arms to Russia.

Whipping Treaties into Shape.
The drafting committees have been working to shape the proposed nine-power treaty or treaties relating to China, which will be signed by all the powers attending the conference, including China. According to a British spokesman, there will be three of these treaties, one embodying the rights of reversion.

Senator Jones of Washington suggested to the Senate that the cost of removal of the snow from pavements be placed on the property owners. The measure is now in the hands of the committee on finance.

France Will Send General Delegation
Denies, However, Acceptance of Italian Invitation to Conference.

By the Associated Press.
PARIS, February 2.—France will be officially represented at the international economic and financial conference in Genoa. It was announced today.

The assurance of France's attendance was given in a communique from the foreign office, which does not say in so many words that France will be represented, but lets it be understood that she is already committing herself as a member of the supreme council.

The statement is in the form of a denial that Premier Poincaré had telegraphed yesterday to Premier Bonomi of Italy accepting his invitation to the conference. The announcement reads:

"Contrary to the announcement published in certain newspapers, it is inexact that the French government made known yesterday by a telegram addressed to Rome that she accepted the invitation to participate in the Genoa conference."

As the premier explained in the chamber of deputies, Premier Bonomi, in invoking the conference, merely executed the decision taken at Cannes by the allied powers, including France. It is in the name of the supreme council that he sent the invitations and it was also at Cannes that the program was adopted.

The French government to give formal acceptance on either point. If political conditions were explained that the communique was intended to establish that France was already bound and former Premier Briand's action at the Cannes conference of the supreme council.

SNOW-MOVING BILL PASSED BY SENATE

Penalty of \$25 Imposed for Failure to Clear Sidewalks.

The Senate this afternoon passed the bill of Senator Ball of Delaware requiring owners and tenants of property of the District of Columbia to remove snow from all paved sidewalks or suffer a penalty of \$25. The measure requires that the snow shall be removed within eight hours after the snow ceases to fall, or in the event it ceases during the night, within the next eight hours of daylight.

As introduced, Senator Ball fixed the limit at four hours, and placed a penalty of \$5 on those who failed to remove the snow, in addition to the expense incurred by the District authorities in having it removed. On recommendation of the Senate committee the Senate increased the time to eight hours and the penalty to \$25.

The measure requires the District Commissioners to remove snow from all paved crosswalks and alley intersections as well as from around District and government property, and imposes on the chief of engineers of the United States Army the duty of removing snow from the walks and around government buildings.

Commissioners Will Act.
In the event that an owner or tenant fails to remove the snow, within the specified period, the District Commissioners are directed, under the terms of the bill as passed, to have the snow removed and to charge the cost of the removal to the owner. The bill requires the corporation counsel to sue for the cost plus a penalty of \$25 for each case.

Five-Cent Cash Fare Opposed.
A rate of fare of 5 cents cash and 2 cents charge for all transfers, which, in accordance with the commission's order, will go into effect on and after March 1, 1922, unless otherwise ordered, will yield 3.03 per cent on our fair value, as found by the commission.

Penalty for Breaking Secrecy.
Until the election the only communication between the approximately 250 persons in the Vatican and the outside is through the "rotta," or turning box, at the entrance of the courtyard, and such communications are made in this way are not allowed to come to the attention of the cardinals. Penalty for violation of this secrecy is excommunication.

Cardinals Meeting to Elect a Pope.
The conclave of the cardinals, which is to choose a successor to Pope Benedict XV, began its sittings today. The fifty-two cardinals who are in Rome went into seclusion last night, and when the great barrier at the entrance of the courtyard of St. Damazo was closed they were cut off from communication with the outside world until their task is done. The first ballot will probably not be taken before tomorrow morning.

Admits Car Fares Yield 10.26 Per Cent.
Hamilton Asks 8 Per Cent for Traction Company—Ham Opposes Cut on W. R. & E.

The Capital Traction Company admitted before the Public Utilities Commission today that a continuation of the present fare during 1922 would yield that company more than a reasonable return on the value of the property.

In a statement filed with the commission when the rate hearing was resumed this morning George E. Hamilton, president of the Capital Traction, contended the company should be allowed to earn 8 per cent on fair value of the property. The statement disclosed, however, that the existing fare of five tokens for 25 cents, if continued throughout this year, would yield 10.26 per cent on the valuation.

Mr. Hamilton refrained from stating exactly what fare the commission should fix for his company, but he did say it should not be less than the rate of four or five tokens for 25 cents. He said, however, that he would not push that point now for the reason that he did not want to jeopardize the bill, but expressed the hope that the House of Representatives would take cognizance of this feature. The measure now goes to the House.

Ball Introduces Bill for Proposed Parks.
Would Purchase Land in Klinge Road and Piney Branch Valleys and Patterson Tract.

Purchase of the Klinge Road Valley Park, the Piney Branch Valley Park and the so-called Patterson tract is provided for in a bill introduced in the Senate this afternoon by Senator Ball of Delaware, chairman of the Senate district committee. The measure was referred to the committee on the District of Columbia, where it will receive prompt consideration and will be early reported to the Senate and pushed to final passage.

Members of the committee are cognizant of the encroachment of builders on this property which is needed as a part of the park system of the District of Columbia, and realize the need of haste in making provision for its purchase.

The Klinge Road Valley Park, west of Connecticut avenue and in the vicinity of the Zoological Park, contains approximately seventeen and one-quarter acres, for which the bill carries an appropriation of \$186,600. The Piney Branch Valley Park, which runs in a northeasterly direction on 16th street, contains sixteen and three-tenths acres, for which the bill carries an appropriation of \$237,700, and the Patterson tract, adjoining and west of Gallaudet College, contains approximately eighty-one acres, for which the measure carries an appropriation of \$609,900.

The measure puts the property under the park commission and authorizes that body to reduce the area specified in the bill by reason of improvements constructed thereon, or unreasonable prices asked.

ROME CABINET OUT FOLLOWING CLASH OVER THE VATICAN

Government of Premier Bonomi Resigns as Italian Parliament Convenes.

CATHOLIC PARTY FIRM IN FACE OF OPPOSITION

Minister's Internal and Foreign Policies Had Been Under Fire. Attitude on Pope Assailed.

By the Associated Press.
ROME, February 2.—The Italian Government of Premier Bonomi has decided to resign, the semi-official Stefani Agency announces.

Premier Bonomi, announced the resignation of the cabinet in the chamber of deputies this afternoon. The cabinet council met this morning to discuss the situation created by the attitude of the parliament, says the statement, and as a result the government's decision to resign was reached.

The ministry at an early hour today found itself in a precarious situation as it faced the convening of parliament. The democrats, upon which the government had counted for 150 votes, had passed to the opposition last night while the fascists and the nationalists maintained their strong opposition. The Catholic party remained firm, but also his own small group of reform socialists.

Ministry's Policies Attacked.
Forecasts had indicated that the Bonomi ministry's internal and foreign policies would be attacked when parliament assembled today. A sharp dispute has arisen over the government's attitude toward the Vatican. Some sections of parliament were blaming the government for the fact that Italy had been left out of the Pacific pact framed at the Washington armament conference and because she had been excluded from the arrangement between France and Britain for the protection of the former from possible German aggression. The suspension of the Banca d'Italia, which was the government's side, while the conflict between the fascists and the communists was another.

Vote Unexpected Before Tomorrow—Two Days of Barring Predicted.

By the Associated Press.
ROME, February 2.—The conclave of the cardinals, which is to choose a successor to Pope Benedict XV, began its sittings today. The fifty-two cardinals who are in Rome went into seclusion last night, and when the great barrier at the entrance of the courtyard of St. Damazo was closed they were cut off from communication with the outside world until their task is done. The first ballot will probably not be taken before tomorrow morning.

The balloting is not expected to consume more than two days and the next Pope, in the consensus of opinion in Vatican circles, will come from among the moderate section of the sacred college. Neither the "irreconcilables" nor the "peace party," which favors closer relations with the Italian government, is expected to have a chance to elect its candidate. The moderates holding the balance of power.

The celebration of mass in the Sixtine Chapel with prayers for the election of a new Pope, was the last public ceremony attended by the cardinals before entering the conclave. Cardinal Vanutelli, dean of the sacred college, opened the conclave.

The attendance was restricted to the cardinals, the officers of the Swiss guards and the members of the Vatican household. A photographer who contrived to gain entrance to the chapel was ejected. The cardinals were later expelled from the premises.

The keynote of the address delivered before the sacred college by Mgr. Calli, director of the Sixtine Chapel, was in his exhortation for the election of a Pope who would have a chance to elect its candidate. The election of a pontiff at the present moment has a particular significance. The world's upheaval in which humanity finds itself, requires a Pope who will be able to give the world a message of peace and unity. The cardinals are urged to choose a Pope who will be able to give the world a message of peace and unity.

Crowds gathered today in St. Peter's Square to watch for the telltale smoke which would indicate the election of a new Pope. A ballot is taken on the morning and evening of each day the conclave is in session, and these smoke puffs are the only indication to the watchers as to the progress of the election. When a vote is finally made the ballots, burning alone, emit a thin wispy of light smoke.

Opinion Held That Cardinal Gasparri Has Best Chance.
By the Associated Press.
LONDON, February 2.—The Rome cable says that the Times and other English papers that when the numerous opinions as to who will succeed Pope Pius XI are taken into account, Cardinal Gasparri has the best chance of election.

Stand out are those of Cardinals Gasparri, Ratti, Maffi, la Fontaine, Lualaba and Granito, with the exception of Cardinal Granito, all of whom have been consistently mentioned as possible choices. Cardinal Granito is Bishop of Albano, seventy years old, and was raised to the purple in 1915.

It is presumed by Italians here that if the ministry resigns it will result, as is customary, from an adverse vote in the chamber of deputies. No direct official information has been received by the Italian representatives here.

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ARBuckle JURY STILL UNABLE TO FIND VERDICT
Ask for Reading of Some Notes and Further Instructions—Trial Closes as Defense Declines Argument.

By the Associated Press.
SAN FRANCISCO, February 2.—The case of Roscoe C. Arbuckle today for the second time was in the hands of a jury. The trial closed unexpectedly at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, when the defense asked the court to adjourn until the state's opening address. Arbuckle is accused of having caused the death of Miss Virginia Riffe.

Twice before 11 o'clock last night, when the jury was locked up for the night, the court was asked to adjourn to have the stenographic record of certain testimony read and once to ask further instructions from the court. The original instructions were reread. The jury was ordered to return to work at 10 o'clock this morning.

It was recalled that the defense in Arbuckle's first trial, which ended in a hung jury, had asked to be released from the case without argument if the prosecution would do likewise. That offer was refused.

HELD AT GERMAN POST.
BERLIN, February 2.—Charles Lermann, the French ambassador to Germany, who had intended to leave today for Paris, was requested by Premier Poincaré to remain at his post and demand explanation from the German government concerning reports of his departure.